

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 27

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Change-of-Command for Navy Region Europe

Navy Region Europe Public Affairs

LONDON - During a change-of-command ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Grosvenor Square June 30th, Rear Adm. Lewis W. Crenshaw Jr., relieved Rear Adm. David T. Hart Jr., as Commander, Navy Region Europe (CNRE).

Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CNE) presided over the ceremony. He praised Rear Adm. Hart's leadership and the efforts of all Sailors and employees across Navy Region Europe for their hard work in

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Sponsoring in Sigonella

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Sicily... what a wonderful place for a tour of duty. The food, the sights, the sounds... the headaches of you're first few weeks of transition to life on the Island.

Sicily can be a great assignment from the moment a newcomer steps off the plane, that is if their sponsor has done a good job.

The sponsor program at Naval Air Station Sigonella is essential to help newcomers to the island acclimate themselves to life in Italy. You probably remember your first step off that plane, wondering where you were going to stay, what your coworkers were like, and most importantly, how is the food?

Then you saw the smiling face of your sponsor and you remembered, "Oh yeah, my sponsor." He or she is the one that makes the initial impression on a newcomer. The sponsor program helps the sponsor get the sponsoree off to a good start.

"We try to do our best to help [the sponsor] to make [the sponsoree's] transition to Sicily as easy as possible," said Deborah Cicero, NASSIG sponsor coordinator. "We are very involved in the program, we try to help them as much as we can. We communicate everyday with the NASSIG sponsor coordinators in case there are problems."

What are some things that can go wrong during the process? "Sometimes we have situations where we have short fuse orders," said Cicero, "where we receive orders a month before, or when the person is already detached from the previous command. At that point it's very hard to get in touch with them. Even if we mail the command sometimes they don't know how to get in touch with them. This is one situation where it's very hard for the sponsor to get in touch with them."

To avoid this if possible, communication should be established very quickly. "We suggest once they are assigned as a sponsor to get in touch with their sponsoree," said Cicero. "Either through email, or by phone."

There are some essential things to take care of before the sponsorees arrive. "Making reservations for the temporary lodging (TLA) is very important," Cicero said. "We suggest making the reservation two or three months before they arrive. And of course they have to reconfirm the reservation at least a week before arrival."

"Also get information about how many people are arriving here," she continued. "This is very important because if they have to make a TLA reservation, they need to know how many family members will accompany them." Some information to give out includes school-

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Today's Hometown Weather

Ozark, MO.



High 88° F - Low 63° F

Partly cloudy

AEC, RTA revolutionize training in Mediterranean region

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Training at Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG) and the Mediterranean region has taken a big step forward with the recent establishment of an Advanced Electronic Classroom (AEC) and a Regional Training Authority (RTA).

The AEC was established at Sigonella as part of the Task Force Excel "Revolution in Training" initiative. It will give the NASSIG Base Education and Training department the flexibility to adequately meet training requirements for every department at NASSIG. "The versatility of this classroom exceeds the standard computer-based training classroom found in most com-



The new state-of-the-art Advanced Electronic Classroom (AEC) at NAS Sigonella features 12 student stations, a smart board, and many other things to better train Sailors at NASSIG.

panies stateside," said Michael L. Sloane, RTA Director for the Mediterranean region.

The system was specifically designed to meet the needs of the 2735 (small computer administrator) and 2780 (network security) Navy Enlisted Classifications (NEC) and CISCO computer networking training. This gives NASSIG the capability, for the first time, to host both NEC level courses, and a full CISCO academy course.

The classroom includes 12 student stations and a state of the art smart board. The smart board can be used in conjunction with DVD videos and digital imaging projections to give interactive presentations. It allows touch control over Microsoft Powerpoint presentations from the board itself, and the ability to write and save additional notes to the screen while a class is being taught. The classroom also features four UNIX boxes, routers, and switches.

It also incorporates a 100-megabyte dedicated line to enable broadcast or download of digital video to other commands on base that have Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) software. "We have a 100mb dedicated line that will enable users to come in here and look at rate specific training videos," said Lt. Charles Puglia, NASSIG training officer. "You can have all these different stations working and watching different training videos at any given time. That's the capability that a dedicated 100mb system gives us."

The system doubles the capacity for computer-based training. Much needed training sessions brought in from the U.S. to the Mediterranean can be digitally recorded and placed on a network. When additional need for the instruction arises, it can be replayed in the AEC or any other classroom with a 100-megabyte line by using IPTV software. In the near future, the AEC will incorporate a digital video camera that will enable training in NASSIG to be broadcast to other bases in the Mediterranean.

The establishment of the classroom came about when the NASSIG Information Technology Department (ITD) sought assistance from Naval

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Look kids, a movie star

Actor Gary Sinise greets a pair of young Sigonellans in the base exchange on Monday. The United Service Organization (USO) sponsored the visit to Sigonella where Sinise met with Sailors and family members in the base exchange, the "Take 5" MWR facility, and the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD). Sinise signed autographs, posed for pictures, and thanked the Sailors for their service. Sinise starred in "Forrest Gump," "Apollo13," and many more Hollywood box office hits.

See article on page 7

Shade tree mechanics have more time to wrench

The Auto Hobby Shop has changed their hours to give Sigonellans more time to do repairs on their cars, trucks and motorcycles, including weekend hours.

J02(SW) Brian Johnson
Staff Writer

Does that island car you bought need a tune-up or a complete engine rebuild. Maybe you just need an oil change and don't want to pay the mechanic to do it. Or for the serious shade tree mechanic, maybe your missing the feel of grease under your fingernails, since you left most of your tools in the States and never have time to get to the Auto Hobby Shop. Now you have more time to work on your car.

The Auto Hobby Shop recently changed their hours to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, to give Sailors more time to get all the wrenching out of their system.

So you, bought a European sports car and you don't feel comfortable working on it, that's OK, the guys at the hobby shop can give advice on how to go about fixing your five-speed slingshot. "You don't have to be a certified mechanic to do repairs on your car, you don't even have to own tools, we have them, and we can give you advice on fixing your car," said Blair Ford, a senior staff member at the hobby shop.

The hobby shop has just about everything you'll need to work on you car from lifts and floor jacks, including a motorcycle jack, to torque and impact wrenches. "We have tool boxes with everything you should need in them and if you want to get everything to manufacturer's specifications we have torque wrenches and gauges for Sailors to use also," said Alfred Koenig, Auto Hobby Shop manager.



Sailors taking advantage of the lifts, wrenches, and other tools to fix their cars. The Auto Hobby Shop recently changed their hours to give Sailors more time to work on their cars.

But maybe it's not the wrenches you need, it's the other equipment. "The hobby shop has three bays with lifts, hydraulic floor jacks, a motorcycle jack, battery charger, tire mounting unit and a balancer just to name a few," Koenig said.

We also have some Chilton's manuals and Mitchell's online, a computer program that can tell you about factory recalls and give various other bits of information about what to fix on your vehicle. Hobby Shop, page 10



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

This week celebrates the 60th anniversary of the American landing in Gela. It all began on the evening of July 9. General Matthew Ridgeway's 82nd Airborne Division landed on the island. But the airborne units were dealt hard blows - the 82nd was dropped over too large an area and could not consolidate to take all their objectives. The British paratroopers fared better - but one-third of the troop gliders were released too early and crashed at sea. Still, the disruption caused by the airborne assault helped the seaborne assault the next day.

On July 10, Patton's forces landed, smashed through light resistance, and quickly took Gela, Licata, and Vittoria; Montgomery's troops landed unopposed and captured Syracuse by the end of the day.

The landing forces used, for the first time, two craft that played important roles in the Normandy invasion: The landing ship tank (LST) and landing craft tank (LCT) enabled the Allies to land armor with the first wave of infantry. Thanks to today's technology, we use the Landing Craft, Air Cushioned, commonly known as the LCAC!

Patton's forces headed west and captured Palermo on July 22; they surrounded 50,000 Italian soldiers, but motorized units, including most of the Germans, escaped toward the northeast corner of the island. Three days later, the U.S. 45th Division captured Santo Stefano on the north coast while the British and Canadians went west around Mount Etna.

On August 17, Patton's troops entered Messina, British units followed a few hours later, and the campaign for Sicily was finally over. The Germans and Italians evacuated more than 100,000 men across the Strait of Messina. German casualties exceeded 10,000 and the Italians lost more than 100,000, mostly as prisoners. The Allies suffered 7,000 dead and 15,000 wounded.

The Navy played an integral part in the liberation of Sicily. We helped land the forces that gave Sicily its freedom. We still play a vital role here in Sicily. Both for the U.S. and the NATO forces in the Med. We are the Hub of the Med!

The Pulse

Hydration

Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Huber
Family Physician

We don't think of water as food, but it is as important to our health as any of the nutrients. Every cell in the body uses water. The human body is 60 to 75 percent water. Without water, the chemical reactions and metabolic processes of the body would not take place. Water makes up the major portion of our body fluids and it is involved in every portion of life. Without it, we cannot digest food, have a functioning neurologic system, lay down bone, lubricate joints, regulate body temperature, and so on. The body will not function well if it is not well hydrated.


On average, your body losses eight to 12 cups of water a day. This is increased by: exercise, hot weather, low humidity, higher altitudes, high fiber diets, and consumption of caffeine and alcohol containing beverages. In general men need to re-

place about 12 cups of fluid daily and women need to replace eight to 10 cups (breastfeeding women need 12-14). Not all of this fluid is generally replaced by drinking water, although water is the major way of meeting your fluid needs. Replace fluid by drinking water, fluids without caffeine or alcohol, and eating soups and foods naturally high in water, such as fruits and vegetables.

On average, your body losses eight to 12 cups of wa-ter a day. This is in-creased by: exercise, hot weather, low humidity, higher altitudes, high fiber diets, and consumption of caffeine and alcohol containing beverages. Drink at least eight cups of water a day. You can count skim milk, 100% fruit juice, and decaffeinated teas as part of this because they are mostly water. If you engage in heavy exercise or spend much of the day outside in the Sicilian sun, increase your fluid consumption.

You can judge your level of hydration by the color of your urine. Thirst and headaches are NOT accurate gauges of hydration. By the time you feel thirsty, you are already one to 1.5 liters behind. Your urine should be clear to very pale yellow. The darker and stronger smelling your urine is, the more dehydrated you are.

Ways to increase your water consumption: at work keep a large water bottle on your desk (and make sure you sip from it frequently), at home keep a pitcher of water in your refrigerator (and pour your self a glass of water frequently), carry a water bottle with you when you leave the house, change to decaffeinated coffee, tea and soda, instead of caffeinated beverages, for every caffeinated beverage you drink, drink a glass of water, drink a glass of water before meals and snacks, order water at restaurants, add lemon or lime to your water if it allows you enjoy water more.



CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE
624-6389
June 23 - June 29

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 8
- Traffic accident with injuries - 4
- Car break-ins - 1
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 30
- DUI's 2002 - 35

What you need to know about international child custody

Cmdr. David R. Daniels,
JAGC, USNR

International marriages are quite common in the military. Unfortunately, so are international divorces, and when children are involved the situation can become complicated. What if you want the children to live in the States, but your foreign ex-spouse wants the children to live in his/her country of origin? What if your divorce from the States grants you custody? Is that good enough? What's to prevent your ex-spouse from taking the children back to his/her home country?

Prevention

Getting children back from overseas is not a simple process. To prevent their being taken in the first place, the first thing to consider is, believe it or not, cooperation and compromise. The sooner you and your ex figure out that your children deserve to know and love both parents, the better off everyone will be. Establish a framework of mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation that will allow the children to visit back and forth across international boundaries without difficulty.

Just in case, keep a list of current addresses and telephone numbers for your ex-spouse's relatives, as well as information on your ex-spouse, such as passport and social security numbers, bank accounts, and driver's license information. This information

will make the ex-spouse easier to find if he/she leaves the country with your children. Secure your children's passports and request the State Department to put the children in its passport name-check system, so that you will be notified if anyone attempts to obtain a new passport for the children.

Getting the children back

What do you do if your children are taken overseas without your permission? First, determine what your right to custody is and what it is based on. Do you have a custody order from a U.S. court, or were the children residing with you in the U.S. without a custody order?

Under the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, you may have rights in either scenario, so long as both countries involved are signatories to the Convention (members include the United States and most European nations, including Italy). The Convention provides that where either a valid custody order exists or the child is "habitually resident" in a country, the child, if improperly removed or retained beyond an agreed-upon time period, shall be promptly returned to the parent in the former country.

Generally, an application must be made within one year from the date of the child's removal or retention, or the country to which the child has been taken may at its discretion decide that

The Chapels of Sigonella's Command

By Chaplain
Phillip B. Creider
Command Chaplain

The Chapels of NAS Sigonella's Religious Program touch the lives of many people. As you look at these photos, you might see



what I mean. You can see little children learning about God's love as they listen to a Bible story. You see Sailors leading others in song and praise. You see Isidoro Cavallaro, our "master" violinist capturing our spirits with his talent. You see the Archbishop of Catania, Salvatore Gristina, visiting and capturing the smiles of the Catholic congregation. Since Sigonella was established after World War II, Catholic Masses, Protestant Worship Services, and Lay Lead Mormon, Jewish, and Church of Christ services to name a few, have been celebrated at our chapels. Retirement ceremonies, cantatas, and memorial services have taken place. The chapels are special places where some special things have happened and still happen. The chapels are places where lives are touched and lives are changed. I hope and pray that your life might also be enriched. Join us and your friends at any of our many activities. It makes a difference in your life and in ours.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

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NAVY NEWS

First customer 'tanks up' at Iraqi oil terminal

From U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) — U.S. and coalition naval vessels provided security June 30 for the first commercial oil tanker to receive Iraqi oil at the Mina Al Bakr offshore oil terminal. The terminal is located in the North Arabian Gulf, outside the Khor Abd Allah waterway.

The supertanker, Abqaiq, is the first offshore customer since 1991 to receive exported Iraqi oil from Mina Al Bakr outside of the United Nations' Oil-For-Food program. The vessel is scheduled to load an estimated 2 million barrels of crude oil from the platform, which is connected to Iraq via an underwater piping system.

USS Chosin (CG 65), an Aegis guided-missile cruiser, and other assets from the Multinational Intercep-

tion Force (MIF), provided security around the perimeter of the Mina Al Bakr Oil Terminal. Chosin served as the command platform for the Australian MIF commander.

The MIF, which consists of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard forces, and naval forces from Australia and Poland, will maintain a presence in the North Arabian Gulf to facilitate the normalization of shipping into and out of Iraq, until an Iraqi coast guard can be established. The presence of coalition forces has also provided safety for local fisherman in and around Iraqi territorial waters.

Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1483 and in support of



Commercial oil tanker AbQaiq readies itself to receive oil at Mina-Al-Bkar Oil terminal (MABOT), an off shore Iraqi oil installation. AbQaiq is the first commercial vessel to receive a post-war shipment of crude oil for export at Mabot. AbQaiq is scheduled to take on an estimated 2 million barrels of crude oil.

Operation Iraqi Freedom, the MIF continues to conduct Maritime Interception Operations to prevent the illegal flow of weapons into and out of Iraq.

Navy commissions aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) will be commissioned July 12 during an 11 a.m. EDT ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station, Va.

Nancy Reagan, wife of the ship's namesake, will serve as ship's sponsor. In the time honored Navy tradition, she will give the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Capt. J. W. Goodwin of Dublin, Ga., is the first commanding officer of a ship named to honor America's 40th president, Ronald Reagan, who was born in Tampico, Ill., Feb. 6, 1911. With a crew of more than 5,500 men and women, including embarked air wing personnel, Ronald Reagan will be homeported in San Diego as a member of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Construction of the ninth Nimitz-class ship took place at Northrop Grumman, Newport News, Va., starting with the ship's keel laying Feb. 12, 1998, and christening March 4, 2001.

Ronald Reagan towers 20 stories above the waterline, displaces approximately 95,000 tons of water, has a flight deck width of 252 feet, and at 1,092 feet long, is nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall. This floating airfield has a flight deck that covers 4.5 acres. Reagan's two nuclear reactors are capable of more than 20 years of continuous service without refueling, providing virtually unlimited range and endurance, and a top speed in excess of 30 knots.

The ship will support a wide variety of aircraft, in-



The Navy's newest Nimitz-class aircraft carrier tests its counter-measure wash down systems (CMWDS) during scheduled builder sea trials off the coast of Virginia. CMWDS includes a series of sprinklers in vital areas throughout the ship to help contain the spread of fire or chemical, biological, radiological (CBR) attacks.

cluding the F/A-18 Hornet and F/A-18 Super Hornet strike fighters, the F-14 Tomcat fighter, the E-2 Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft, the C-2 Greyhound logistics aircraft, the S-3 Viking anti-submarine aircraft, the EA-6 Prowler electronic warfare aircraft and the multi-role SH-60 and MH-60 helicopters.

To watch the live broadcast of the commissioning ceremony on Navy NewsStand, visit www.news.navy.mil/management/videodb/html/live.html.

Navy takes delivery of ASDS

From Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy took delivery of the U.S. Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) Advanced SEAL [Navy Sea, Air and Land forces] De-

livery System (ASDS), during a ceremony at Northrop Grumman Oceanic and Naval Systems in Annapolis, Md., June 26.

"This first-of-its-kind system provides a new level of operational capability to SEAL forces in high-threat areas," said Capt. Joe Fallon, ASDS program manager at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). "The delivery of ASDS marks a major milestone in ensuring that our Naval forces have the most technologi-

cally advanced equipment for today's critical missions."

The ASDS, developed by Northrop Grumman, is a combat submersible intended to clandestinely carry Navy SEALs and their combat gear to and from hostile shores enabling a number of special operations missions. The boat was designed and developed by a team composed of Northrop Grumman's Oceanic & Naval Systems business unit, NAVSEA, USSOCOM and Naval Special Warfare Command.

Currently, ASDS is deployable from some modified Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines. However, the four Trident-class SSBN fleet ballistic missile submarines - once converted to SSGN cruise missile and special forces carriers - will be capable of carrying ASDS, as will Virginia-class attack submarines and the last of the Seawolf-class, Jimmy Carter (SSN 23). The ASDS is a key element in the transformational capabilities of the SSGN.



The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Greenville (SSN 772) recently completed sea testing for the Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS) off the coast of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. ASDS is an 65 foot mini-submarine, which rides attached to the top of a much larger Los Angeles Class submarine.

Navy's LIFELines services network launches new version

From LIFELines Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The LIFELines Services Network, the Department of the Navy's official Quality of Life (QOL) services delivery system, unveiled Version 4.0 July 1, with a contemporary new look, new addresses www.lifelines.navy.mil and www.lifelines.usmc.mil, and many additional capabilities powered by a dynamic database system.

At the heart of the new version is a cutting-edge content management system for storing, retrieving and man-

aging massive amounts of online information.

The Ingeniux Content Management System provides an application interface for classifying content based on LIFELines' 60,000-category Department of Defense/Department of the Navy taxonomy system.

Content is cross-indexed for publication to the multiple areas of the LIFELines platform, as well as to a network of partner Web sites. As a result, LIFELines expects to increase the frequency, quality and quantity of information published on the site.

Recap SIG 2.3 CORNER

NAS I street names approved

We have approved street names for NAS I, that have retained many of the base's historical street names but some are in new locations. Halsey Road, the road that runs East-West from the Stephen Decatur School to the Child Development Center, is named for Adm. William F. (Bull) Halsey. Mitscher Road running North-South from the main gate is named for Adm. Marc Mitscher. Ryder Loop, around the Park-Playground, and Hillis Drive, that will serve the Key and Essential Housing area, are named for AD1 William F. Ryder and Capt. Thomas W. Hillis who were killed in the crash of a "Sky Train" aircraft in Naples in March 1959. Byrd Street, running along the western base boundary, is named for Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd. Forrestal Road, running East-West from the Navy Lodge to the main electrical substation, is named for the first Secretary of Defense and former Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal. Sherman Drive, running North-South in front of newest barracks, Guadalcanal Hall, is named for Adm. Forest Sherman, a former Chief of Naval Operations.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: Utilities work at the end of Halsey Road near the Stephen Decatur School and the gravel parking area will RESTART. School is out until September, so the loop road (Ryder Loop) will be open. We are installing the sewer line in Forrestal Road in front of the old Library-Live Wire and that work will be complete on July 22. In September we will close Sherman Road to install the new electrical line in the center of the road and this will require restricted one-way traffic.

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact LT Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

Supply community mergers resources

JO2 Edward Flynn, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

ATHENS, Ga. — In an effort to streamline training and education, and to reduce redundancies within the supply community, the Navy recently completed the merger of the Aviation Storekeeper (AK) rating with the Storekeeper (SK) rating. The merger will give Sailors within these supply ratings a clear career path and increase professional development opportunities.

"The objective of the merger is to create a multi faceted, highly trained, professional rating with increased flexibility to support functions both afloat and ashore," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Supply Community CNOCM(SW) James Smith.

A study conducted by the Supply Training Requirements Review (STRR), who partnered with the Fleet and the Navy Manpower Analysis Center (NAVMAC), determined the 94 percent commonality in occupational standards and technical training within the two ratings warranted a combined training effort that would give the Navy a more versatile talent pool to draw from. Additionally, the study determined that advances in shipboard logistics practices and technology created an environment that allowed the two ratings to merge without diminishing support to the Fleet or Sailors.

The merging of the AK and SK ratings is part of an ongoing effort to optimize manning and adopt the best business practices now used by private industry. Through shared automated systems, the Navy will minimize redundancy in functions and training, resulting in better customer service and quality of life for the Sailor.

The AK and SK A schools were combined in October 2002 and the merger was completed in January 2003.

"This effort will ensure the supply community is constantly improving and integrating the latest resources, training, and education into the developmental pipeline," said Commander Naval Personnel Development Command Rear Adm. Kevin Moran. "The output of that process is a better trained workforce arriving in the Fleet, which directly contributes to increased operational readiness."

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supporting the fleet during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Initially assigned as the CNE Deputy, Rear Adm. Hart took on the additional duty as Navy Region Europe's commander last year. CNRE was established in November 2001, as part of a realignment effort undertaken by CNE.

Another major change that took place during Rear Adm. Hart's tenure was the implementation of the Unified Command Plan, which extended the boundaries of CNE.

While Rear Adm. Hart spoke of the many changes that occurred throughout the theater, he emphasized the one constant theme of caring for people. He reminded attendees that parents of service members entrusted the total care and well-being of their sons and daughters to the Navy.

Following his remarks, Rear Adm. Hart welcomed Rear Adm. Lewis W. Crenshaw Jr., aboard, who spoke about the impact his last command would have on his new job.

Prior to his current assignment, Rear Adm. Crenshaw served as Director, Assessments Division (N81) in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Some of his other assignments included Commander, John F. Kennedy Battle Group, Commander, Carrier Air Wing One and Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron Eighty-Five.

Rear Adm. Hart has been assigned to Washington D.C., where he will serve as Director, Fleet Readiness Division.

Located in London, England, CNRE leads the combined efforts of commands and activities, spanning from Keflavik, Iceland to Souda Bay, Crete, which support the Navy's operational units in Europe.

News Briefs

Marvel Action Hero Youth Bowling League

The youth league is coming to TENPINS Bowling Center in September for ages six to 14. The league will run approximately 12 weeks. Price includes an Action Hero bowling ball (The Hulk or Spiderman), 12 weeks of bowling, a participation award and a fun day on the 13th week with free bowling and a kids meal. Don't miss the mandatory meeting for interested kids and their parents on Saturday, July 19, at Noon at TENPINS. The actual starting day and time will be set at the meeting, the youth will also select the ball of their choice so that they can be ordered and have by September when the league starts. For Prices and information call 624-4302.

Job Opening

The Hospital is soliciting for one full-time personalized service contract for an ambulatory care registered nurse. Closing date is July 16. Sources must be eligible for u.s. employment and U.S. board certified. Solicitation packages are available at the Supply Department, Purchasing Office, NAS II. Call Mrs. Saladino at 624-5723 or Mrs. Randazzo at 624-3792.

World Championship Tournament

The U.S. Women's Field Hockey Team will be participating in the World Championship Tournament in Catania from July 5 thru 13. Competing teams include U.S., Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Spain. ITT will be sponsoring a trip to cheer on the U.S. team when they face Japan on July 12. Call 624-4396.

Position Announcement

Navy College Office has a job opening for Education Advisor for Navy College Program for Sigonella.

It is a full time position with 40 hours a week. Qualifications include: Must have a BA/BS or Masters Degree in Education or Counseling or a BA/BS degree in any field with college coursework in counseling (3sh) and tests/measurements (3sh) and three years experience in an adult education or counseling environment, experience in a military environment preferred. Must be a US citizen. Position is available August 2003 or earlier. Benefits are universal leave, federal holidays, medical and dental, life insurance, long-term disability and 401(k) plan. For more information stop by the Navy College or call Judy Hill at 624-2511.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Discount shopping season kicks off in Sicily

It's again *sconti* (sales) time in Sicily. Here is your chance to strike good bargains while shopping in the local economy. Tomorrow, local merchants will start the discount season by cutting prices. The *stagione degli sconti* or discount season will officially last until Sept 10. However, reportedly, some shops will continue offering discounts until the end of September. During the first days, Italian shoppers would typically flock the stores for good deals. So expect long lines.

While you're in search of big bargains, be sure you keep in mind some tips that Italian Consumer Associations have suggested to avoid rip-offs and disputes with merchants that would be difficult to handle without an Italian translator next to you. Yet, according to Italian Consumer Associations officials, some unfair retailers might try to sell shopworn or damaged items as "promotional sales" just to reduce the quantity of merchandise in stock.

Here are some concrete rules of thumb. First of all, do not trust discounts higher than 50 percent from the initial price. A "sensational" 80 or 90 percent discount might sound like a tempting offer but it is probably a rip-off.

Remember that during the discount season, defective merchandise can be exchanged or returned as usual. There is no "special return policy" when you shop at sales. Therefore, always keep your *scontrino* or receipt and distrust the shops that display signs saying: "*la merce venduta non si cambia*," which literally translates in English: "purchased merchandise cannot be exchanged," or "all sales are final." You have the right to change any defective fabric or shoe that is not up to sample within two months. Retailers can either refund your money or give you a coupon that should be spent in the same shop.

Be sure to look an item over carefully before you buy it. Check different shops to compare prices. If you have already visited a store you might be able to evaluate if a product was over-priced and then marked down. As a general rule, if you just arrived in Sicily and you have not been around a lot, be oriented toward buying at big department stores, where sales are usually fair. Stores must display on the tags the initial *prezzo* (price) and the reduced price, both in ciphers and in percentage.

Finally, remember that you can use any way of payment. Mistrust shop owners who display signs saying "*non si accettano carte di credito e bancomat*" (credit cards and ATM cards are not accepted) because of the sales season. They shouldn't do that. It is illegal. If you don't see any signs around, and the sales clerk

tells you about it upon paying, tell them that you know they must accept your credit card or ATM card. If they do not back off of their refusal, and you are not willing to pay cash, leave the shop and look for your best deals somewhere else!

Ortigia festival begins in Siracusa

An amazing festival featuring theater, music shows, movies and more will be held through July 27 in Ortigia, an island located in the southeast part of Siracusa that is the heart of the city's historic center. The magnificent Greek Theater, the *Orecchio di Dionisio* (Ear of Dionysus) a breathtaking cave featuring a perfect acoustic, will be among the mesmerizing backdrops for this world-renowned cultural celebration.

The festival features several highlights including: *Oedipe ou la controverse* (Greek Theater- July 11- 9:15 p.m.), a theatrical adaptation of Sophocle's Oedipus performed in French by the *Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord*, a world-renowned French company. Among the actors is Sotigui Kouyaté, one of the master performers of the *Griot* tradition from Burkina Faso (West Africa). Griot performance is a mixture of traditional storytelling, dance, music, and song passed on generation to generation within certain families. Kouyaté adapted and composed music for the play directed by Peter Brook, one of the world finest and most celebrated British theatre directors.

Of animals, Men and Gods (Ear of Dionysus - July 12/13/14/16/17- 9:15 p.m. July 18 – 11 p.m.) by Giorgio Barberio, a theatrical adaptation of Ovid's Metamorphoses.

The Temptation of St. Anthony (Greek Theater- July 18/19/20 9:15 p.m.) by Robert Wilson, a gospel opera performed in English and based on the life of the



Picture courtesy Ortigia Festival

Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, a world-renowned French company directed by Peter Brook will perform Sotigui Kouyaté's theatrical adaptation of Sophocle's Oedipus July 11 at the Siracusa Greek Theater. This play, which will be performed in French, is one of the highlights of the Ortigia Festival running through July 27.

popular Portuguese ascetic's monk and saint. The opera was drawn from an adaptation by French novelist Gustave Flaubert's 1874 novel "The temptation of St. Anthony."

The Logic of the Birds (Greek Theater -July 25/26/27- 10:30 p.m.) is a new performance-film installation work by Iranian-born visual-media artist Shirin Neshat and Iranian-American experimental vocalist Sussan Deyhim that explores the mystical and ancient roots of Iranian society and its modern adaptations.

Ticket information and detailed schedules are available at ITT 624-4396 or Ortigia Call Center at 0931-497680.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<div>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</div>										11	<div>Dive-In Movie</div> <div>cool off while watching a movie and eating BBQ</div> <div>NAS II Pool</div> <div>Liberty</div> <div>Call 624-5187</div>	12	<div>World Championship Tourney</div> <div>U.S. Women's Field Hockey Team vs Japan</div> <div>ITT Call 624-4396</div>
13	<div>Lipari Express</div> <div>tour the island of Lipari</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	14	<div>Conversational Italian Classes</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	15	<div>Youth Bowling Bargains</div> <div>until Aug 2</div> <div>ages 16 and younger</div> <div>TENPINS</div> <div>Call 624-4302</div>	16	<div>Motorcycle Safety Standdown</div> <div>8 to 11:15 a.m.</div> <div>Base Theater</div>	17	<div>Photo Safari Meeting</div> <div>4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</div> <div>Golden Anchor</div> <div>Call 624-3718</div>	18	<div>Wardroom Hail and farewell</div> <div>1830</div> <div>Red and Blue Cafe</div>	19	<div>Visit Palermo</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>
20	<div>Eraclea Minoa & Beach</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	21	<div>National Ice Cream Day</div> <div>free ice cream sandwiches while supplies last</div> <div>Take 5</div>	22	<div>Kool & the Gang with Earth, Wind and Fire</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	23	<div>Rainbow Playgroup</div> <div>every Wed.</div> <div>10 to 11 p.m.</div> <div>205 Housing</div>	24	<div>Etna Land Water Park</div> <div>AU</div> <div>Call 624-4271</div>	25	<div>Caltigirone Candelighting Festa di San Giacomo</div> <div>Liberty</div> <div>Call 624-5187</div>	26	<div>Hike of the Month: Pantallica Gorge & Anapo Valley</div> <div>Liberty</div> <div>Call 624-5187</div>
27	<div>Noto, Vendicari & La Trota Resturant</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	28	<div>Special Additions</div> <div>1 to 3 p.m.</div> <div>Comm. Bldg room 203</div> <div>Call 624-4291</div>	29	<div>National Hotdog Month</div> <div>half price dogs</div> <div>11 a.m. to 3 p.m.</div>	30	<div>San Vito lo Capo Camping Trip</div> <div>AU</div> <div>Call 624-4271</div>	31	<div>Anger Management</div> <div>5 to 6 p.m.</div> <div>Hospital 2A-111</div> <div>Call 624-4291</div>	1	<div>Taormina & Giardini Naxos</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	2	<div>Teen Water Day</div> <div>free</div> <div>at the Mineo Comm. Bldg</div> <div>Call 624-0046</div>
3	<div>Cefalu & Castelbuono Agrituristic Farm</div> <div>ITT</div> <div>Call 624-4396</div>	4	<div>Walleyball Clinic</div> <div>until Aug 8</div> <div>Nas II Gym</div> <div>5 to 6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Call 624-2710</div>	5		6		7		8		9	<div>Trinacria Challenge 3-Club Golf Tourney</div> <div>tee time 9 a.m.</div> <div>IL Picciolo Golf Club</div> <div>Call 624-2710</div>



Word Find

Universities

L T S R T T E S Y P W A H G R B G D T T M T M T O
A K A X E C T V I S R O E A Z X Q S N E N H O N C
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SALISBURYSTATE
SOUTHWEST-
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STRAYER
TEXAS
TEXASTECH
TUSKEGEE
UNION
VANDERBILT
VILLANOVA
WAYLANDBAPTIST
WESTPOINT
WIDENER
WITTENBERG
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XAVIER
YALE

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MONTCLAIRSTATE
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Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Gary Sinise plays different role as part of USO tour

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer



It seems that NASSIG has become a very popular stopping ground with the recent flourish of celebrity visits, including the NASCAR Team, Corvette Team, and Robert Duvall to name a few, who have taken time out of their busy schedules to show their support for the service men and women of the armed forces all over the world.

Monday was no different. Actor, director, producer Gary Sinise was welcomed with open arms by many Sailors and their families at NASSIG's AIMD, Take Five, and NEX. You may know him as Lt. Dan in the Oscar winning film, "Forest Gump" (1993) or other films such as "Apollo 13" (1996), "Of Mice and Men" (1991), and "Truman" (1995).

Within the past 10 days, Sinise has traveled to Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar as part of a USO tour. "After September 11th, I wanted to assist in some way to show my support for the troops, so I volunteered with the USO," said Sinise.

Sinise wasted no time at all, graciously signing autographs, allowing individual and group photos, and conversed with many Sailors and their families. When AE2(AW) Andrea Westerman of AIMD was reading the 'Preview' and noticed he was coming to NASSIG she quickly grabbed one of her favorites, "Apollo 13" to be autographed. "The autograph was nice, but what I enjoyed most about his visit was his very down to earth mannerism," said Westerman. "I told Mr. Sinise I was leaving the Navy to pursue another career after proudly serving 12 years and he was very sincere in saying, 'thank you for your hard work and dedication and good luck to you in the future.'"

Sinise, born in March of 1955, was raised in Highland Park, Illinois where his first acting role was in a high school production of "West Side Story." Sinise was hooked on acting for life by closing night. He credits his love for theatre to his drama teacher, Barbara Patterson. He also played in garage rock and roll bands

In 1974, Sinise, along with Terry Kinney and John Malkovich founded the prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, which initially had performances in the basement of a church. Over time, the company grew and gained stature in the Chicago area, eventually making its Broadway debut with the production of Sam Shepard's "True West". His favorite movie was "Of Mice and Men" because he was both director and actor.

Sinise is no stranger to the military. His grandfather, father and uncle all served in the armed forces. His grandfather served in WWI, his uncle flew B-29s over Germany in World War II, his father served in the Navy and his sister is currently serving in the Navy. "I just need to be supportive (of the military)."

Sinise finds it remarkable that many Americans volunteer and sacrifice to serve. "With about 250 to 260 million Americans and about half of a percent of those people defending our country every day," he said. "A very small percent of people who do what you do - dedicating themselves to defending and serving our country in that way."

Sinise next visit is to Aviano Air Base and then he returns home. He promised that the first chance he gets he'll go with the USO to any part of the world to support the troops.

Actor Gary Sinise greets two young Sigonellans in the base exchange on July 7. The United Service Organization (USO) sponsored the visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella where Sinise met with Sailors and family members in the base exchange, the "Take 5" MWR facility, and the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD). Sinise signed autographs, posed for pictures, and thanked the Sailors for their service.

TRIVIA

What fruit kills more people than sharks annually?
What road is wide enough for 160 cars to drive side by side down at one time?
Who was the head of the committee to organize the opening ceremonies of the 1960 Winter Olympics?
What sport does badminton originate from?
Where is the Mall of America?
(Answers on page 8)

Movie Connection

MOVIE's Theater Schedule

Friday, July 11



1 p.m.
Sinbad (PG) **



5:30 p.m.
Charlie's Angels:
Full Throttle (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.
Identity (PG-13)

Saturday, July 12



3:30 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)



6 p.m.
Down With Love
(PG-13)



9 p.m.
The Hulk (PG-13)

Sunday, July 13



1 p.m.
Sinbad (PG)



3:30 p.m.
Bullet Proof (PG-13)



6 p.m.
Charlie's Angels:
Full Throttle (Pg-13)

Monday, July 14



5:30 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (PG-13)



9 p.m.
Identity (R)

Tuesday, July 15



5:30 p.m.
Bullet Proof Monk (PG-13)

Wednesday, July 16



1 p.m.
Holes (PG)



5:30 p.m.
It Runs in the Family (PG-13)

8 p.m.
Charlie's Angels:
Full Throttle (PG-13)

Thursday, July 17



5:30 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)



8 p.m.
X:2 X-Men United (PG-13)

Friday, July 18



5:30 p.m.
The In-Laws (PG-13) **



8:30 p.m.
T3: Rise of the
Machines (R)**

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at

This week on...

Mon. Jul 14 - 60 Minutes
AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Tue. Jul 15 - Dale Earnhardt Tribute Concert
AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Jul 16 - Boston Public
AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

Thu. Jul 17 - Frasier
AFN Atlantic 8:35 PM

Fri. Jul 18 - Alias
AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

THE ROCK SHOW ON 106.0 ZFM WEEKDAYS FROM 3 PM - 6 PM

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

Fri. July 11

Don't forget if you signed up for the Red, White and Blue four-person Best Ball Golf Tournament Tee-Time is 8:30 a.m.

Enjoy the Greek essence of Siracusa contact Take 5 x5602

Dive-in movie from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at NAS II Pool (Men of Honor) free BBQ

How about a Parents Night Out - Catania by night

With Tourist Tram & Wine Tasting meet at NAS II 4:30pm or NAS I 5:00pm. Return: 11:30 p.m.

Sat. July 12

See sites in Siracusa like the Ear of Dionysius, Cordari Cave and more. Contact ITT for more information x4396/4777.

Did you know today is National Cow Appreciation Day, Take 5 is having free milk and cookies while supplies last.

Mon. July 14

Don't forget to sign up for your conversational Italian class starts 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Contact ITT x4396.

Hungry Man's Buffet. Little low on cash and need something to eat, come by at 7 p.m.

Tues. July 15

Come join the Travel Club at the Pizza Villa. Talk travel and enjoy free pizza . Starts at 4:30 p.m.

Ever Trek Mt Etna, here's your opportunity. Three hour siteseeing horse ride. Contact Adventures Unlimited 4271/3718.

Wed. July 16

Do you know all the words to that song? Now you can. Karaoke night starts @ 6:30p Jox Sports Bar x5603.

Thurs. July 17

Photo Safari Meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Golden Anchor. Free informative meeting on beginner free lance photography. Contact Photo Safari x3718.

Seafood Dine-Out at the Capo Mulini. Contact Adventures Unlimited. Seating is limited x4271/3718.

Its an Elementary Italian class, learn the basics and find yourself having a simple conversation with your comrades. Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Building. Contact ITT x4396.

SPORTS

Sigonella Swordfish preparing for another successful season

JO2(SW) Brian Johnson
Staff Writer

As McKeown has the team start doing a new exercise, he keeps a watchful eye on every swimmer's technique, occasionally telling a swimmer what they did wrong or what would make their stroke more effective. With the swim season starting at the end of August, the team is training hard to improve on last year's results. This is a tall order, but McKeown thinks it is a goal the team will meet. "Not long ago everyone here was a beginner, but they work hard," he said.

For the kids on the team, if the swim season results aren't up to last season's standards, it won't be for lack of practice. "Most teams train year round," McKeown said. "We have been training year round also. During the summer the bronze team practices one hour a day, three days a week, the silver team practices for one and a half hours a day, five days a week, and the Gold team puts in two hours a day, five days a week."

By this time in the practice, the team is out of the pool standing in line as McKeown has some of the team's top swimmers show the others their specialties. It's a chance for

Back in my days of playing high school football my coach used to tell us "practice makes perfect," but how much practice does it take to be perfect? Well, for the Sigonella Swordfish, the answer is a heck of a lot of practice; fortunately for the team, practice is in the pool. What place is better to spend a summer in Sicily?

It's 9 a.m. on a Wednesday, and it's already getting hot. Kids in their swimming attire scurry about the pool deck preparing for an hour of tiring swimming practice at the NAS II pool. Then the coach gives his order and off they go, lap after lap. Just watching these kids cutting through the water for a warm up makes me tired, but these athletes are determined to get stronger and faster in the water. And the team's coach, Rich McKeown, is determined to make sure they get better.

In between giving orders and setting up the pool for the rest of practice McKeown explained, "the team is actually broken up into three teams: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze team members work on turns and strokes; Silver and Gold work on physical conditioning."



Photo by JO2N Steve Weaver

Water polo coach for the Sigonella Swordfish Robby Cheriton teach passing techniques to a member of the team during practice at the NAS II pool.

the kids to take a breath before the hard work starts again. Before the season starts again, coach McKeown has a goal of his own for the off-season and it seems as though he will easily meet his goal of "[getting] every kid on the team to improve."

If you are new to Sigonella and would like to become a Swordfish, there is a test to determine what team you'll be on. "Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we give the skills test to determine where to put any new members," said McKeown.

Q & A

How many games did Wade Boggs pitch in during his career?

He pitched in two games his entire career. The first time was as a Yankee in 1997 when pitched one full inning. He had one walk, one strikeout, and no hits. The second and last time in his career was at the age of 41 with Tampa Bay when he went one and a third innings allowing 3 hits.

The Lane

Obstacle course challenge

Come out to the NAS II ballfield and test your speed, agility and strength as you navigate through the challenging obstacle course. Sign up ahead of time at the fitness centers. Event takes place Saturday August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Captain's Cup Swim Meet

Get out your suits and get ready for the Captain's Cup Swim Meet Saturday August 16 at the NAS II pool. Small fee to enter the event. Meet starts at 10 a.m. T-shirts, awards and barbecue available during the event. Call 624-4334 or 624-5335.

Mural Contest

Contest lasts through July. Winner announced in August. All drawings should be dropped off at the NAS II gym. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate for an ITT trip. Drawings must include Spin cycles.

AEC from page 1

Education and Training Command (NETC) to modernize their computer based training capabilities. NETC not only agreed, but also took the opportunity to seek a partnership with NASSIG in establishing the Regional Training Authority (RTA) for the Mediterranean at NASSIG. This resulted in Sigonella becoming a regional hub for training of all types.

“That was NETC’s (formerly CNET) foot in the door...to visit here and agree to partner with NASSIG in bringing not only [the AEC] to NASSIG, but also assigning my job here as the Regional Training Authority for the Mediterranean Naval Stations,” said Sloane. His duties are to coordinate training not only for NASSIG, but also for bases such as Rota, Gaeta, Naples, Souda Bay, and Bahrain. An RTA was established in London as well.

“Instead of all of those bases flying people back to the U.S. to get training, it’s cheaper to fly two instructors out to [Sigonella] or Naples, or Rota, and have the region take part in the opportunity to get the same training that would cost a fortune to send people back to the States for,” said Sloane.

The concept of the RTA and the installation of an AEC supports the concept of providing facilities and capabilities to this region that eventually allows the tailored training needs of Sailors to be met. It also provides an environment conducive to learning.

“This is Vice Adm. Harm’s commitment to the forward deployed Naval forces for Revolution in Training,” said Sloane. “That ‘Revolution in Training’ is not just for CONUS-based Sailors. This will allow forward-deployed Naval Forces to receive and take part in every opportunity the ‘Revolution in Training’ initiative provides.” These include Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), Navy E-learning, and distance learning.

One of the cornerstones of the Task Force Excel initiative is accreditation for classes taught and training received in the Navy. “They want to make Sailors not only employed, but employable on the outside should they ever get out,” said Puglia.

The establishment of the AEC and RTA will ensure that Sailors in the Med are well trained for years to come.

Sponsor from page 1

ing details in case they have school aged-children, info on the Child Development Center, and even the website where they can get a welcome aboard package – <http://www.sicily.navy.mil/nassig/>. Information on the check-in process and the base indoctrination course is also helpful.

“One other thing the sponsor needs to ask them is the flight information,” said Cicero. “They need to know if they will be arriving commercially in Catania, or at the air terminal. The sponsor needs to meet them and provide transportation to the lodging.”

After the initial arrival, the process doesn’t end. Showing them the facilities on base, introducing them to their command and coworkers, taking them to the Personnel Support Detachment, housing, CDC, and all the check in areas on base can help out a lot.

Then, there’s the all important cultural introduction into the local area. “We decided to introduce Cinzia Spampinato, Intercultural Relations (ICR) program manager, into the sponsor training so she can talk a little about the culture and what a sponsor should say about the Italian culture and local people,” said Cicero. “That’s one of the things we say in the training is to take them and show them the local area in case they want to live on the economy. Show them a little about the culture, a little of the food, the restaurants, and a little about Sicily if they can.”

“I receive a lot of emails from incoming people,” said Cicero. “I tell them that this is a great island and a great base.”

Cicero advises that once someone finds out they are a sponsor, they should attend sponsor training. “We also have a training guide for sponsors,” she said. “That’s a book that I give out during my monthly sponsor training. It has a pre-arrival checklist, a post-arrival checklist and a list of everything the sponsor needs to do before they arrive and after they arrive.”

“What I keep saying in my training is ‘Treat them the way you would like to be treated.’ Every person, especially those that have a bad experience with a sponsor when they arrived here, should make it so the new people don’t have the same experience,” said Cicero.

“It’s easy to be a good sponsor, it’s not a very hard job,” she said. “As long as you take care of the basic but important things.”

Hobby Shop from page 1

hicle,” Ford said.

And at the end of the day if you don’t finish your repair work you can store your vehicle at the hobby shop. “We have indoor and outdoor storage facilities that are very cheap,” Koenig said. “We’re here for morale not to gouge Sailors.”

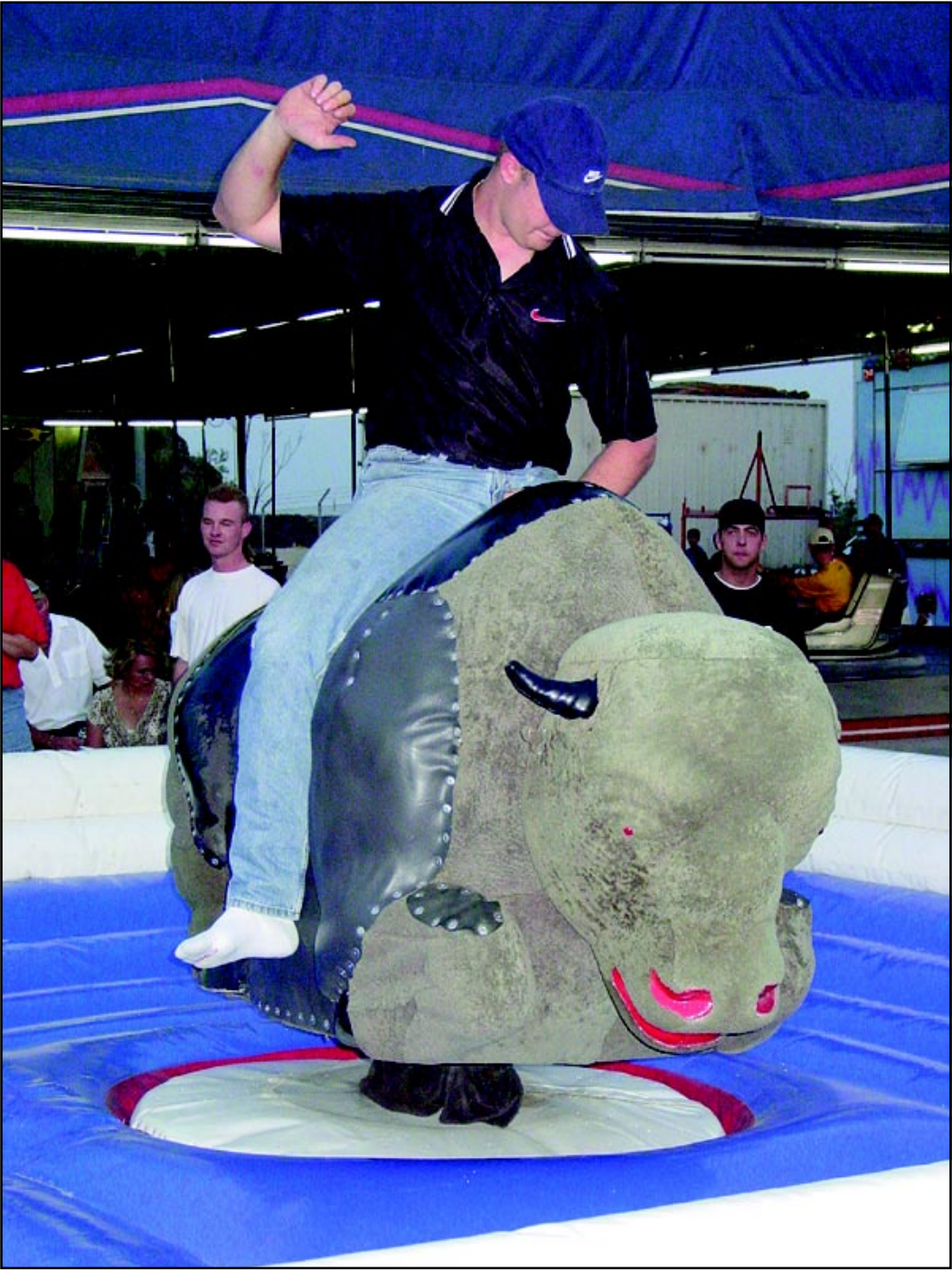
The hobby shop also offers towing service. “The towing service is probably the thing that gets used the most,” Koenig said. “We’re hoping to expand our towing service to weekends soon, but a big hurdle is finding someone with a Stateside class B [commercial driver’s license] CDL to drive the truck.”

But if you’re mechanically inclined in the least and you like your car to sparkle, the hobby shop can help you get rid of all that dirt and ash that gets in and on your car. “We have a power washer and vacuum cleaner so you can wash your car,” Koenig said. “We have a new power washer on the way also so people will be able to clean their cars even better.”

And right now the hobby shop is giving away a free

Freedom Fest '03 live and in color

Photos by JOSN Steve Weaver
and
JO2 David Hamilton



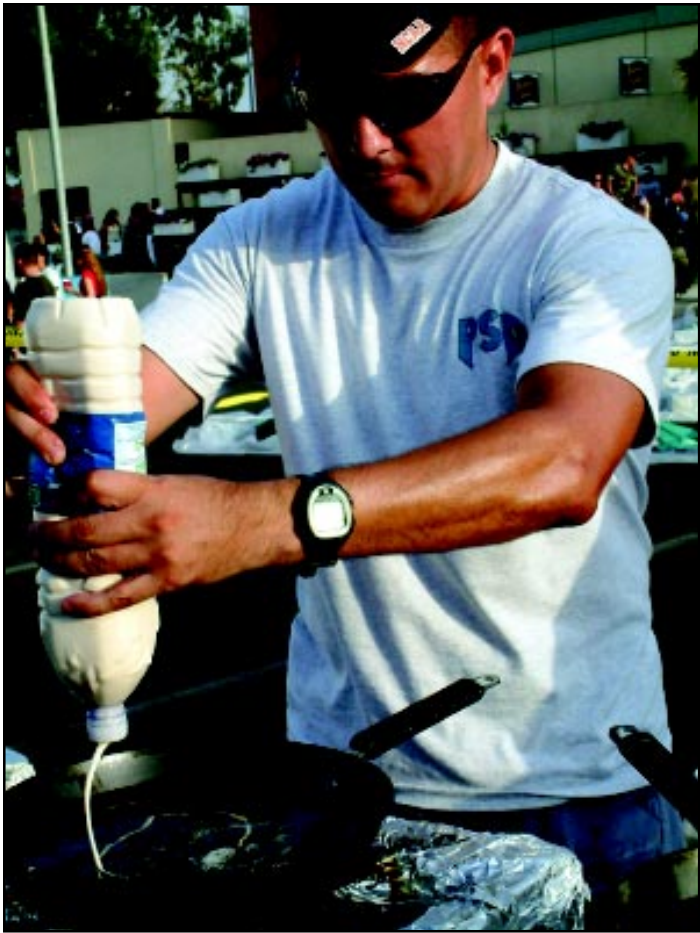
This rockin rodeo star has the proper technique to handle this bucking buffalo. This was one of several rides for this year's MWR 2003 Freedom Festival.



Kids show their patriotism by blowing into their wind spinners during the 2003 MWR Freedom Fest on July 4.



No more tears...This Sailor chomps down into a raw onion during a wild and wacky MWR Liberty games at the 2003 MWR Freedom Fest on July 4.



This Sailor begins work on what is sure to be a great funnel cake at the PSD funnel cake booth during the MWR Freedom Fest 2003 on July 4.



He psychs out his competition during the MWR Liberty pie-eating contest held on July 4 as part of the MWR Freedom Fest.



Members of the Filipino American Association (Fil-Am) show off their barbecue skills as they cook up some pork on a stick during the 2003 MWR Freedom Dest on July 4.